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Recommended Citation

Mantz, Erika, "Actor Mike O'Malley Is Keynote Speaker At UNH Commencement May 20" (2006). *UNH Today*. 967.
<https://scholars.unh.edu/news/967>

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Actor Mike O'Malley Is Keynote Speaker At UNH Commencement May 20

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March 24, 2006

DURHAM, N.H. -- Mike O'Malley, star of the CBS comedy *Yes, Dear* and a 1988 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, will give the keynote address at his alma mater's 136th Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 20, 2006, beginning at 10 a.m. in Cowell Stadium.

Yes, Dear is a comedy about two young couples and their contrasting views on parenting. And yes, O'Malley is a father. He and wife Lisa have two children, Fiona and Seamus.

In addition to *Yes, Dear*, O'Malley hosted Nickelodeon's sports action fantasy show *Guts*. He is also well known for his portrayal of sports fanatic "The Rick" in ESPN's popular promotional spots.

O'Malley made his big screen debut playing Elijah Wood's astronomy teacher in *Deep Impact* and he's also had roles in *The Perfect Man* opposite Heather Locklear and Hillary Duff, *28 Days* opposite Sandra Bullock, and *Pushing Tin* opposite John Cusack.

In addition, he is also an accomplished playwright. Two of his plays, *Three Years from Thirty* and *Diverting Devotion*, have been published and produced Off Broadway. A third play, *Searching for Certainty*, was produced in Los Angeles in 2003. While at UNH, O'Malley was a theater major. Since graduating he has established two endowed funds in honor of theater professors Gilbert Davenport and John Edwards to provide student scholarships.

O'Malley, who will also receive an honorary degree at this year's ceremony, was raised in Nashua since the age of three. He continues to support two Nashua-based organizations. Marguerite's Place, a transitional housing program with on-site day care for homeless women and children, and the Adult Learning Center, where his mother worked for more than 20 years.

Editors: A photo of Mike O'Malley is available for download at
<http://www.unh.edu/news/img/commencement/omalley.bmp>